WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1.   A method for integrated management of technical information comprising the steps of:

maintaining a digital database of technical information including product, product source and

5   procedure;

indexing the digital database of technical information by product, product source and

procedure;

receiving a query for technical information;

searching the digital database of technical information by an index in response to the query

10   for technical information;

cross referencing the information found by searching to another index;

filtering the response as a function of preference data;

transmitting information found by searching and cross referencing;

wherein access is provided to the technical information and the corresponding cross

15   references.

2.   The method as recited in claim 1 wherein access to the technical information and the

corresponding cross references is a function of the preference data.

20   3.   The method as recited in claim 2 further comprising formatting the information found by

searching and cross referencing so as to be indicative of a selection of the preference data.

4.   The method as recited in claim 1 wherein a selection of the preference data corresponds to qualifications of a particular user.

5.   The method as recited in claim 1 wherein a selection of the product corresponds to a medical

5   product and the procedure corresponds to a medical procedure.

6.   The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the index used for searching the database corresponds to a medical procedure.

10   7.   The method as recited in claim 1 wherein a user may select products from a predetermined vendor for comparison.

8.   A system for integrated management of technical information in response to a request from a user computer comprising:

a database of technical information including product, product source and procedure;

15   an index corresponding to the database of technical information by product, product source and procedure;

communication device for receiving from a user computer a query for technical product information;

search engine for searching the database of medical information by an index in response to

20   the query for technical information;

means for cross referencing the information found by searching to another index;

means for filtering the information found;

communication device for transmitting information found by the search engine and generated by the means for cross referencing to the user computer;

wherein the user computer is enabled to access the technical information and the

5   corresponding cross references.

9.   The system as recited in claim 8 wherein the database further comprises preference data.

10.   The system as recited in claim 9 further comprising means for formatting the information found by searching and cross referencing so as to be indicative of a selection of the preference data.

11.   The system as recited in claim 9 wherein the selection of the preference data corresponds to a particular user.

15   12.   The system as recited in claim 9 wherein the preference data corresponds to a product supplier.

13.   The system as recited in claim 8 wherein the index used for searching the database corresponds to a procedure.

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14.   The system as recited in claim 8 wherein the user may select products from a predetermined vendor for comparison.

15. The system as recited in claim 9 wherein the selection of the preference data corresponds a particular level of skill/training with respect to a product.

16. The system as recited in claim 15 wherein the means for filtering is a function of the particular level of skill/training with respect to the product.

17. A business method for integrated management of technical information comprising the steps of:

maintaining a database of technical information including product, product source and procedure;

indexing the database of technical information by product, product source and procedure;

receiving a query for technical information;

searching the database of technical information by an index in response to the query for technical information;

filtering the response as a function of preference data;

providing access to information found by searching.

18. The business method as recited in claim 18 wherein access to the technical information is a function of the preference data.

19. The business method as recited in claim 18 further comprising formatting the information

found by searching so as to be indicative of a selection of the preference data.

20.   The business method as recited in claim 18 wherein a selection of the preference data corresponds to a particular level of skill/training of a user.

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21.   The business method as recited in claim 18 wherein a selection of the product corresponds to a medical product and the procedure corresponds to a medical procedure.